

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONSTITUTION DAY AND
CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER EDUCATION WEEKS**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2304-2**

WHEREAS, Constitution Day is on September 17, 2022, coinciding with California High School Voter Educations Weeks from September 19 – 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, are committed to strengthening and motivating students to take an active role in civic processes; and

WHEREAS, stated in the 2014 California Assembly Bill 1817 supported by former California Governor, Jerry Brown, California High School Voter Education Weeks is designated by California Education Code to be observed in the last two weeks of April and September. On April 18, 2022, California Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber signed the April 18-29, 2022, resolution encouraging high school participation in the observance; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, a living document, reflects valuable ideals expressed through the description of important rights; and

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, and its amendments, outline the freedoms and the principles of representative government that are as strong today as they were on that momentous occasion in 1787; and

WHEREAS, national research on civics education shows that community members, educators, families, and students benefit from equitable civic education in schools that includes the voice of young people; and

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County has the 5th largest number of 16-17 years olds pre-registered to vote in the state, with a total of 7,661; and

WHEREAS, in Santa Clara County, voter registration for 18-24-year-olds increased from 95,000 in 2018 to 120,960 in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to partner with government agencies and community-based organizations to increase civic education and engagement through the initiative called “The Power of Democracy”; and

WHEREAS, as part of “The Power of Democracy,” the County Office of Education is partnering with Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (SCCROV) to provide voter education, voter registration, and other election materials to all high schools in the region; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE is in its sixth year of “The Power of Democracy” initiative. In the 2021-22 school year, there were great efforts made towards elevating the authentic youth voice with a focus on equity and access, and;

WHEREAS, in 2020 the SCCOE in collaboration with SCCROV, League of Women Voters (LWV), Office of Women’s Policy (OWP), and the American Association of University Women (AAUW), visited about 60 schools and pre-registered around 1,000 high school students, before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, SCCOE encourages youth who are 16 and 17 years old to pre-register to vote, so they can be automatically activated when they turn 18 and begin receiving voting materials; and

WHEREAS, the SCCOE continues to partner with the SCCROV to bring the Educator Ambassadors Program as a part of the My Voice, My Vote Campaign, which promotes and highlights school and community efforts to pre-register and register voters as well as engage in voter education, specifically about Voting Rights in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, during the 2021-22 school year, the SCCOE Alternative Education, Migrant Education, Opportunity Youth Academy, and Special Education leaders and community collaborated to develop local criteria so that the students who are directly served by SCCOE will have the opportunity to earn the State Seal of Civic Engagement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to affirm its commitment to civic engagement and to encourage Santa Clara County Schools to celebrate Constitution Day and participate in California High School Voter Education Weeks.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on August 3, 2022, by the following vote:

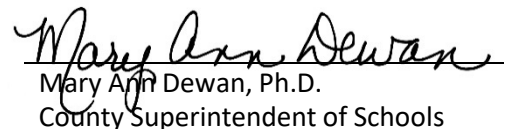
AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Trustee Rossi


Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools